SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Campaign for Our Future

Conference Campaign Progress Report —Transforming Churches Transforming Lives Update

Indeed living a spiritual life requires a change of heart, a conversion. Such a conversion may be marked by a sudden inner change, or it can take place through a long, quiet process of transformation.
Henri J.M. Nouwen

From the perspective of the gospel, fund-raising is not a response to a crisis. Fund-raising is, first and foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. Vision and mission are so central to the life of God's people that without vision we perish and without mission we lose our way (Prov. 29:18; 2 Kings 21:1-9). -----Vision brings together needs and resources to meet those needs (Acts 9:1-19). Vision also shows us new directions and opportunities for our mission (Acts 16:9-10). Vision gives us courage to speak when we might want to remain silent (Acts 18:9).Fund-raising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission.

When we seek to raise funds we are declaring, "We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God had given you- your energy, your prayers, and your money - in this work to which God has called us." We trust that our vision and mission are like "trees planted by streams of water, which yield fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither" (Ps. 1:3).

The Southeast Conference UCC ***"TRANSFORMING CHURCHES - TRANSFORMING LIVES"*** Campaign is well under way. The Area Co-Chairs for the Campaign are currently recruiting their Clergy/Lay Teams that will be visiting with all of our churches beginning mid-January, 2010. Our **HONORARY CHAIRPERSON** is Ambassador Andrew Young; the **GENERAL CO-CHAIRPERSONS** are Rev. Susan Mitchell and Mr. Bob Watson; and the **AREA CO-CHAIRPERSONS** are: **ALABAMA / MISSISSIPPI AREA** - Rev. Dorinda Broadnax and Mr. Joseph Thornton; **GEORGIA / SOUTH CAROLINA AREA**- Rev. Susannah Davis and Ms. Bette Graves Thomas; and **TENNESSEE AREA** - Rev. John Gill and John Stewart.

When all Clergy/Lay Teams are in place, we will have a total of approximately 50 volunteers Conference-wide giving of their time, talent and financial support to ensure the success of this Campaign. We are thankful to everyone for their commitment to the Campaign, which will strengthen the future of the Southeast Conference - *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds."* (Romans 12:2)

The Kick-Off and Training Meetings are scheduled for January 12, 13 & 14, 2010. The Campaign Steering Committee and the Conference Board of Directors asks each church to cooperate in allowing the team an opportunity to present the program to each church's Governing Body (Consistory, Council, etc.). In order for this Campaign to be successful we are hopeful that each church will consider participating at the **highest** possible level. By spreading the congregation's pledge over a five-year pledge period it will enable each congregation to make a ***maximum*** contribution with a ***minimum*** of financial strain. Churches are encouraged to take a serious look at their local needs so as to conduct a combined local church - Conference Campaign. Fund-Raising Workshops are being scheduled for next year.

Listen to the 2009 Podcasts with leaders making a difference in the UCC.

Theology Among the People
Check out our Lay Theology Program called "TAP", Theology Among the People. **Click here.**

Need books, videos or other resources for your church? Contact the Resource Connection **here**.

The Nehemiah Initiative
Are you interested in starting a new church or being a part of a new church start? Click **here** to learn more about our Church Development program.

SUPPORT JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES
Stay in touch with the work of our national Justice and Witness ministry. Click **here** to support this ministry.

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